

absence of *Thesium!* Despite a stiff north-westerly wind and occasional showers the second site looked instantly more promising due to the present of good quantities of the larval foodplant. With the aid of quantities of cigar smoke two imagos were "smoked out" within a few minutes, but after a further three cigars, the tally still stood at two moths.

The moths appeared quite rapidly from the vegetation which led us to believe that they were probably the only two present at the time of the visit.

The *Thesium* plant from which the moths were obtained was on a bank (south-west facing) which is part of a bank and ditch system between two tumuli and at the lowest, and hence most sheltered, portion of the bank system.

The only other known record for Wiltshire was from Granham Hill near Marlborough on 14th June 1889 (Marlborough College List).—S.M. PALMER, The Warren, Hindon Road, Dinton, Wilts SP3 5EG.

***Lasius brunneus* (Lat.) (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) rediscovered in Monks Wood National Nature Reserve, Cambs.)**

On 17th May 1966 a single *Lasius brunneus* worker was collected (by R.C.W.) from under the bark of a fallen aspen (*Populus tremula* L.) in Compartment 19d of Monks Wood NNR, adjacent to Neaverson's Ride (TH 196 799) (see Moller, G.J., p. 210, In: Steele, R.C. & Welch, R.C., 1973, *Monks Wood: A Nature Reserve Record*, The Nature Conservancy, Cambridge). Coleoptera recorded from the same tree included *Anisotoma orbicularis* (Hbst.), *Gabrius splendidulus* (Gr.) and *Dinaraea aequata* (Er.). A thorough search of the same tree the next day failed to reveal further specimens and, despite several years of intensive collecting in the wood, no more specimens were seen.

On 16th March 1990 several small ants with distinctive dark gaster were seen (by J.N.G-D.) running up and down the trunk of an aspen growing beside Hotel Ride in Monks Wood NNR (TL 200 802). Their identity was confirmed (by R.C.W.) as *L. brunneus*. Examination of the tree revealed the presence of an old "beef steak fungus", *Fistulina hepatica* Schaeff. ex. Fr., at a height of about three metres. In almost every case where side branches had been removed rot holes could be seen developing, and it appeared most likely that the ants were living within an extensive heart rot, although no ants were seen entering these wounds. Ants were seen to pass down the trunk and continue below soil level, suggesting that their nest may be at the base of the tree. A search of neighbouring trees produced only three *L. niger* (L.) on another aspen. Two *Dromius quadrinotatus* (Zenk, in Pz.) were found associated with the bracket fungus.

L. brunneus has a distribution in Britain predominantly centred on Berkshire and Surrey, with Windsor Forest its best known locality, where it is more usually associated with ancient oaks (*Quercus robur* L.). It is also known from South Essex and Herts, around Oxford, Beds and Worcs, and

North Glos. In 1979, when K.E.J. Barrett edited Pt. 5 (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) of the 2nd edition of the *Prov. Atlas of Brit. Insects*, the 1966 Monks Wood record was the most northerly known in Britain. The reference in Bolton, B. & Collingwood, C.A., 1975 (*Handbk. Ident. Brit. Ins.*, 6, Pt, 3c, Royal Ent. Soc., London) to *L. brunneus* from Northants is an error and is presumed to refer to this Hunts (v.c. 31) record. Collingwood (*in litt.*) considers that *L. brunneus* "could occur in Northants, perhaps in the Rockingham Forest area", but knows of no records from that County, or further north. A few *L. brunneus* workers were still present on the same aspen in Monks Wood on 24th May 1990.— R. COLIN WELCH & J.N. GREATORIX-DAVIES, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 2LS.

***Carpelimus halophilus* (Kiesenwetter) (Col.: Staphilinidae) and other Coleoptera from North Somerset (ST/36).**

Carpelimus halophilus (Kiesenwetter): On 27.iii.1989 I was checking a large mechanically-piled heap of shore debris that had been covered with a thick layer of sand, and encountered several examples of this species. The species is a Red Data Book entry, and it is suggested that there are few modern records.* It has in the past been taken in ten English coastal counties, to which North Somerset should now be added. Both I, and Mr A.A. Allen, who confirmed these records, venture to suggest that woodland records of this species require confirmation (as given by Fowler, 1888, *Col. Brit. Isl.* 2: 389. Likewise for *C. foveolatus* Sahlb., *ibid.*).

Immediate coleopteran associates of *C. halophilus* on the sand were *Dyschirius salinus* Schaum, *Bembidion minimum* (Fabricius), *B. normannum* Dejean, *Cercyon littoralis* (Gyllenhal), *Bledius germanicus* Wagner, *Stenus crassus* Stephens, *Rugilus orbiculatus* (Paykull), and *Quedius pallipes* Lucas.

Harpalus schaubergerianus Puel: Male, 26.v.1987, amongst *Cochlearia officinalis* L. in limestone rubble, back of saltmarsh. This is a localised calcicolous species of exposed environments.

Kissister minimus (Aubé): Breeds in large numbers (imagines numbered in hundreds) in beach drift. The habitat, decomposing organic matter, is more typical of the family in general than the regular finding of this species at the roots of plants in sandy places. My only Worcestershire record (SO/93, 28.ii.1988) accords with the latter niche, but may be a dissipant from such favoured coastal strongholds.— P.F. WHITEHEAD, Moor Leys, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcs WR10 3EP.

*I do not regard *C. halophilus* as particularly rare, especially in the latter half of this century (I first took it in 1948); but it may be highly localised, and being very sluggish is easily passed over on the surface of the mud. It was quite common here and there in the Thames near Slade Green and Crayford, W. Kent in 1984.— A.A. ALLEN.